

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-1178
Guttenberger's Store
400 Eastern Avenue
Essex, Baltimore County
1910
Private

Since 1910, Guttenberger's Store has served as a residence and store at the center of the small community of Essex, a suburb on the east side of the city of Baltimore. The ninety-year-old building was the first general store to be constructed in the small community of Essex, which was established by the Taylor Land Company between 1908 and 1909. Henry Guttenberger, a grocer, magistrate, and coroner, built the store and dwelling after he purchased the land at the intersection of Eastern and Mace Avenues from the Taylor Land Company in 1909. In the 1920s or 1930s, Guttenberger constructed an addition on the side of the building as for the expansion of his commercial space. Guttenberger's Store is one of the few remaining early 20th century commercial buildings in this growing suburb of Baltimore. It continues to serve as a mixed-use building with commercial and domestic space.

Sited on the acute corner of the intersection of Mace Avenue and Eastern Avenue in the heart of Essex, Guttenberger's Store is a mixed-use commercial/domestic building. The wood frame building is clad in vinyl siding and has a side gable roof clad in standing seam metal. The two-and-a-half story main block has a two-and-a-half story, one-bay square ell that is flush with the southwest elevation. Although the ell dates to the initial date of construction, the building was later augmented by the construction of several additions on the sides and back of the original building. A circa 1930 three-bay wide, shed-roofed addition with a poured concrete foundation augmented the five-bay wide façade, and a full-width porch with a half-hipped roof now spans the elevation. One interior end stretcher bond brick chimney with a corbeled cap rises through the gable peak of the southwest end of the main block. Additional interior end stretcher bond brick chimneys rise through the north corner of the main block and the north corner of the ell. A late 20th century garage is located to the northwest of the main building.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-1178

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Guttenberger's Store

other

2. Location

street and number 400 Eastern Avenue not for publication

city, town Essex vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Herbert Weimer, Jr.

street and number 400 Eastern Boulevard telephone 410.574.7925

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21221-6714

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 12417 folio 1

city, town Towson tax map 97 tax parcel 374 tax ID number 1507830310

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1178

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Sited on the acute corner of the intersection of Mace Avenue and Eastern Avenue in the heart of Essex, Guttenberger's Store is a mixed-use commercial/domestic building constructed in 1910. The wood frame building is clad in vinyl siding and has a side gable roof clad in standing seam metal. The two-and-a-half story main block has a two-and-a-half story, one-bay square ell that is flush with the southwest elevation. Although the ell dates to the initial date of construction, the building was later augmented by the construction of several additions on the sides and back of the original building. A circa 1930 three-bay wide, shed-roofed addition with a poured concrete foundation augmented the five-bay wide façade, and a full-width porch with a half-hipped roof now spans the elevation. One interior end stretcher bond brick chimney with a corbeled cap rises through the gable peak of the southwest end of the main block. Additional interior end stretcher bond brick chimneys rise through the north corner of the main block and the north corner of the ell. A late 20th century garage is located to the northwest of the main building.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The façade, or southeast elevation, of the original building is five bays wide with a central entry containing a sash-and-paneled double-leaf door with a two-light fixed transom. Flanking the entry are wide commercial window openings divided into two rows of four one-light fixed windows. Five 1/1 vinyl windows with vinyl surrounds and sills pierce the second story of the main block. There is one pentoid four-light fixed window with a vinyl surround in the intersecting front gable peak of the façade. Circa 1930, the façade was extended by three bays to the east, the first story of which is centrally pierced by a paneled double-leaf door with a two-light fixed transom. This entry is flanked by the same window arrangement as the main block. Three 1/1 vinyl windows with vinyl surrounds and sills pierce the second story of the addition.

The northeast elevation of the building is pierced at the second story by two 1/1 vinyl windows with vinyl surrounds and sills. The first story of this elevation is not pierced.

The northwest elevation is composed of the 1910 ell, the three-bay wide addition, and a one-story shed-roofed addition that spans the distance between the them. Above this late 20th century addition, the second story of the elevation is marked by the main block of the building. The first story is only pierced by one paneled single-leaf vinyl door with a vinyl surround on the one-story addition. The second story of the two-story addition is pierced by a flush sash double-leaf door with a vinyl surround. At the center of the ell's second story is one 1/1 vinyl window with a vinyl surround and sill. Above this window is one pentoid four-light fixed window in the gable peak of the ell.

The southwest elevation of the ell features a circa 1940 one-story five-sided bay pierced by six 3/1 windows with vinyl surrounds. There are two 1/1 vinyl windows with vinyl surrounds and sills on the second story of this elevation.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior was not accessible at the time of the survey.

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OUTBUILDING

The one-story, two-bay wide cinderblock garage located to the northwest of the store dates to circa 1970 and features a side gable roof clad in asphalt shingles and two vehicular door openings with metal awning doors and wood lintels. The side gable peaks of the building are clad in particle board. A single-leaf door opening on the northeast elevation of the garage has been sealed by cinderblocks.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1178

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1909, 1910, 1925 ca., 1996

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1910, 1930 ca

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Since 1910, Guttenberger's Store has served as a residence and store at the center of the small community of Essex, a suburb on the east side of the city of Baltimore. The ninety-year-old building was the first general store to be constructed in the small community of Essex, which was established by the Taylor Land Company between 1908 and 1909. Henry Guttenberger, a grocer, magistrate, and coroner, built the store and dwelling after he purchased the land at the intersection of Eastern and Mace Avenues from the Taylor Land Company in 1909. In the 1920s or 1930s, Guttenberger constructed an addition on the side of the building as for the expansion of his commercial space. Guttenberger's Store is one of the few remaining early 20th century commercial buildings in this growing suburb of Baltimore. It continues to serve as a mixed-use building with commercial and domestic space.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The land to the east of Baltimore remained predominantly rural through the mid-19th century, and historic atlases indicate that the town of Essex consisted of farmland occupied by B.E. Cook in 1877. The majority of the land was owned, however, by members of the Taylor family. Although Eastern and Mace Avenues existed in the late 19th century, they were unimproved roads that extended across the Back River Neck between the Back and Middle Rivers. In 1895, streetcar service extended northeast along Eastern Avenue, connecting the suburbs in eastern Baltimore County to the city of Baltimore.¹

In the early 20th century, the land between Baltimore and the Middle River was still largely agrarian. A 1909 photograph of the intersection of Eastern and Mace Avenues reveals the agricultural nature of the Essex community. The road was lined with trees and bordered large grassy fields that were sparsely developed with buildings or other improvements. At this time, a streetcar line extended to the northeast from Baltimore along Eastern Avenue.²

The community known as Essex was born in 1908 out of the development of land near the intersection of Eastern and Mace Avenues by the Taylor Land Company. In that year, the company obtained a loan from the Title Guarantee and Trust Company for \$50,000 for the development of the land. The first dwelling constructed in the newly developed town

¹ George J. Martinak, "A Short History of Essex and Middle River" TMs (Photocopy), Department of English, Essex Community College, Essex, Maryland (May 1963), pp. 3-11; see also *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).

² Martinak, p. 13.

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was constructed shortly thereafter. Although schools, public services and religious institutions were established in Essex in the 1910s, the community's growth did not increase rapidly. The 1915 county atlas indicates that few structures existed on the city blocks created by the Taylor Land Company's survey of the area.³

The first commercial establishment in the community was the general store constructed in 1910 by Henry Guttenberger at the intersection of Mace and Eastern Avenues. The building's form and lack of significant ornament were typical of construction techniques used throughout the community in its earliest days of development. The store and dwelling constructed by Guttenberger was originally a five-bay wide vernacular building with a two-story, one-bay deep ell. The flush façade was spanned by a full-width porch. The only decorative details that ornamented the building were the patterned wood shingles in the gable peaks and the turned wood posts that supported the porch roof.⁴ The interior of the establishment was detailed with wood shelving and storage bins.⁵ The two-story, three-bay wide addition was added by Henry Guttenberger in the 1920s or 1930s. As a general store, the building would have served the Essex community in a variety of ways, including providing groceries and dry goods to the town's growing population. In addition to operating the commercial establishment, Guttenberger was also involved in local politics, serving as the local coroner and magistrate.⁶

The town's development accelerated after the 1919 establishment of the Eastern Rolling Mill near the Essex community. The mill quickly became one of the primary employers in the area around the Back River. Worker housing quickly sprang up on the undeveloped lots that were part of the Paradise Resurveyed plat.⁷ A 1927 photo indicates the results of this rapid growth: many one-and-a-half and two-story dwellings on small suburban lots that front the side streets that extend from Eastern Avenue.⁸ Essex was slated for continued growth through World War II and the post-war period.

As the outward growth of the city progressed through the second half of the 20th century, suburbs close to Baltimore's perimeter began to develop as edge cities, and the Eastern Avenue corridor has become a primary transportation route on the east side of the city. Guttenberger's Store has remained a store and dwelling throughout this period of commercial growth on the east side of the city. In 1996, the property, which had continuously been operated by successive members of the Guttenberger family, was finally conveyed out of the family when Constance Guttenberger sold the property to Herbert and Shirley Weimer. The building continues its intended mixed use as commercial and residential space and presently houses an antique store and apartment.

Chain of Title:

³ Martinak, pp. 11-17; see also *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915).

⁴ A photograph of the first dwelling constructed in Essex (Martinak, p. 13) reveals a similar building footprint, wall treatment, and ornament.

⁵ "Grand Opening, Grand Restoration," *Essex Times*, September 25 1997.

⁶ Neal A. Brooks and Eric G. Rockel, *A History of Baltimore County* (Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979), p. 326; see also Martinak, pp. 15-17.

⁷ Brooks and Rockel, 326.

⁸ Martinak, p. 21.

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September 13, 1909:	Taylor Land Company and The Essex Land Company to Henry Guttenberger and Barbara Guttenberger Land Records of Baltimore County Liber WPC 349 Folio 462
January 30, 1942:	Henry Guttenberger, widower, to Joseph T. Hanley Land Records of Baltimore County Liber 1211 Folio 325
January 30, 1942:	Joseph T. Hanley to John Guttenberger and Anna Guttenberger, sister Land Records of Baltimore County Liber 1211 Folio 327
July 3, 1991:	John Guttenberger to John Guttenberger with George and Constance Guttenberger, Remaindermen Land Records of Baltimore County Liber SM 8850 Folio 326
September 9, 1995:	John Guttenberger to George and Constance Guttenberger Will Records of Baltimore County
May 2, 1996	Constance H. Guttenberger to Herbert Weimer and Shirley Weimer, wife Land Records of Baltimore County Liber 11585 Folio 330
August 1, 1997:	Herbert Weimer and Shirley Weimer, wife, to Herbert Weimer, Jr. Land Records of Baltimore County Liber 12417 Folio 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

"Grand Opening, Grand Restoration." *Essex Times* (25 September 1997).

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Martinak, George J. "A Short History of Essex and Middle River" TMs (Photocopy). Department of English, Essex Community College, Essex, Maryland. May 1963.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 12,632 Square Feet
Acreage of historical setting 12,632 Square Feet
Quadrangle name Middle River

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since 1909, Guttenberger's Store has been associated with the 12, 632 square feet known as grid 2, parcel 374 located on map 97 of the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's Office.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	February 21, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

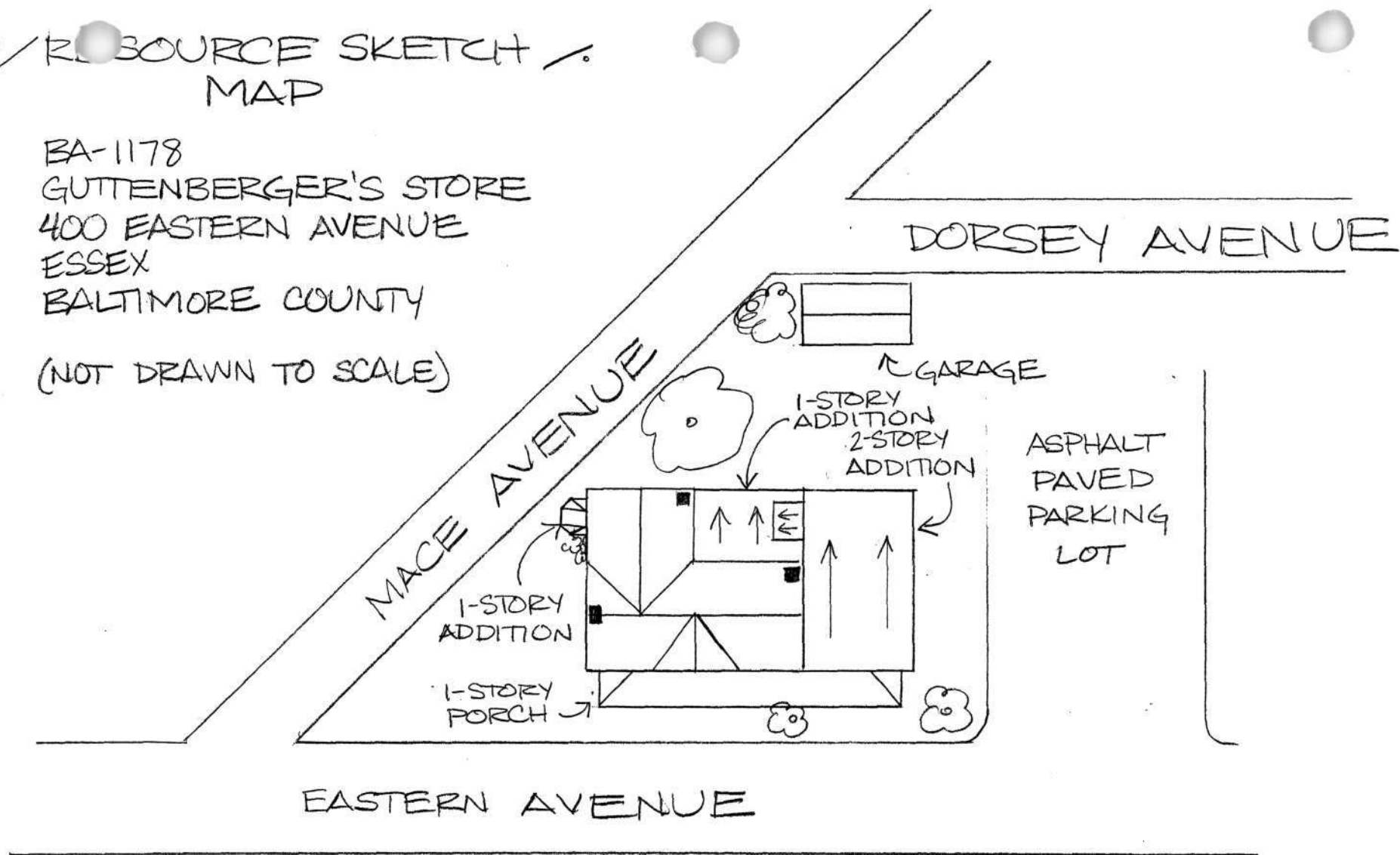
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

RESOURCE SKETCH
MAP

BA-1178
GUTTENBERGER'S STORE
400 EASTERN AVENUE
ESSEX
BALTIMORE COUNTY

(NOT DRAWN TO SCALE)



USGS Quad: Middle River
Scale: 1:24,000



WASHINGTON, D.C. 42 N
BALTIMORE INTERCHANGE 1 3.4 N

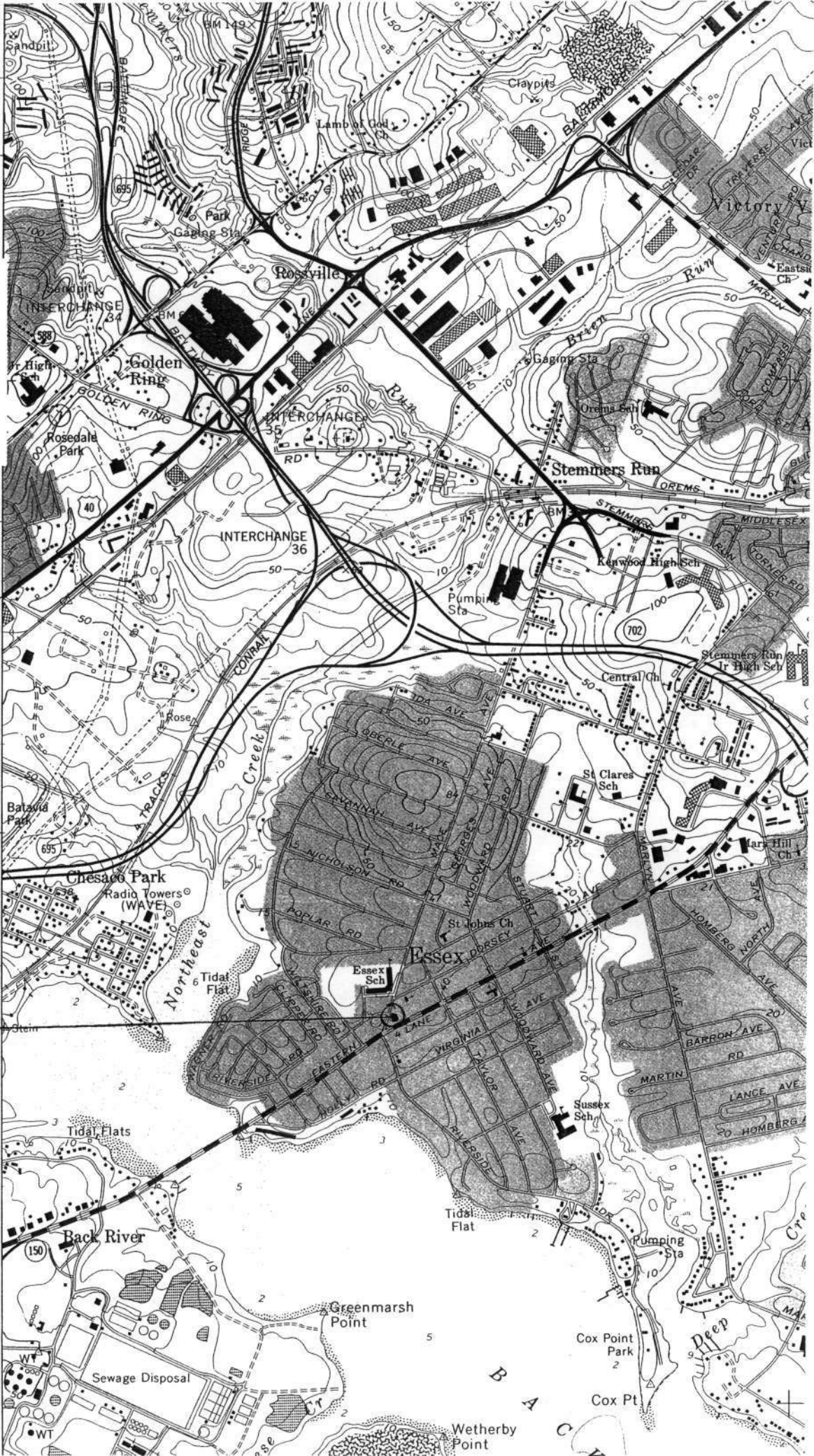
4354

5662 1 SE
(BALTIMORE EAST) BALTIMORE (COURTHOUSE) 7 MI.

4351

17'30"

BA-1178
GUTTENBERGER'S STORE
400 EASTERN AVENUE
ESSEX
BALTIMORE COUNTY





BA-1178

GUTTENBERGER'S STORE
400 EASTERN AVENUE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRACERIES

10/2000

MD SHPO

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION, CAMERA
FACING NORTHWEST

1 of 5



BA-1178
GUTTENBERGER'S STORE
400 EASTERN AVENUE,
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRACERIES
10/2000

MD SHPO

NORTHEAST ELEVATION, CAMERA
FACING, SOUTHWEST



BA-1178

GUTTENBERGER'S STORE

400 EASTERN AVENUE, ESSEX

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRACERIES

10/2000

MD SHPO

WEST CORNER, LOOKING EAST

3 of 5



BA-1178

GUTTENBERGER'S STORE
400 EASTERN AVENUE, ESSEX
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRACERIES

19/2000

MD SHPO

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION, CAMERA
FACING NORTH

4 of 5



BA-1178

GUTTENBERGER'S STORE

400 EASTERN AVENUE, ESSEX

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRACERIES

10/2000

MD SHPO

GARAGE, SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

CAMERA FACING NORTHWEST

BA-1178

GUTTENBERGER'S STORE - 1910 - 400 Eastern Avenue, NE intersection with Mace Avenue. Two-stories, late Victorian frame house with cross-gable; gable roof, and Gothic peak window. Five bays wide, full-width front porch. Imbricated pattern shingling at attic level. Outer covering of white asbestos shingles. First grocery store in Essex community, built by Henry Guttenberger, carried on (1979) by John Guttenberger.